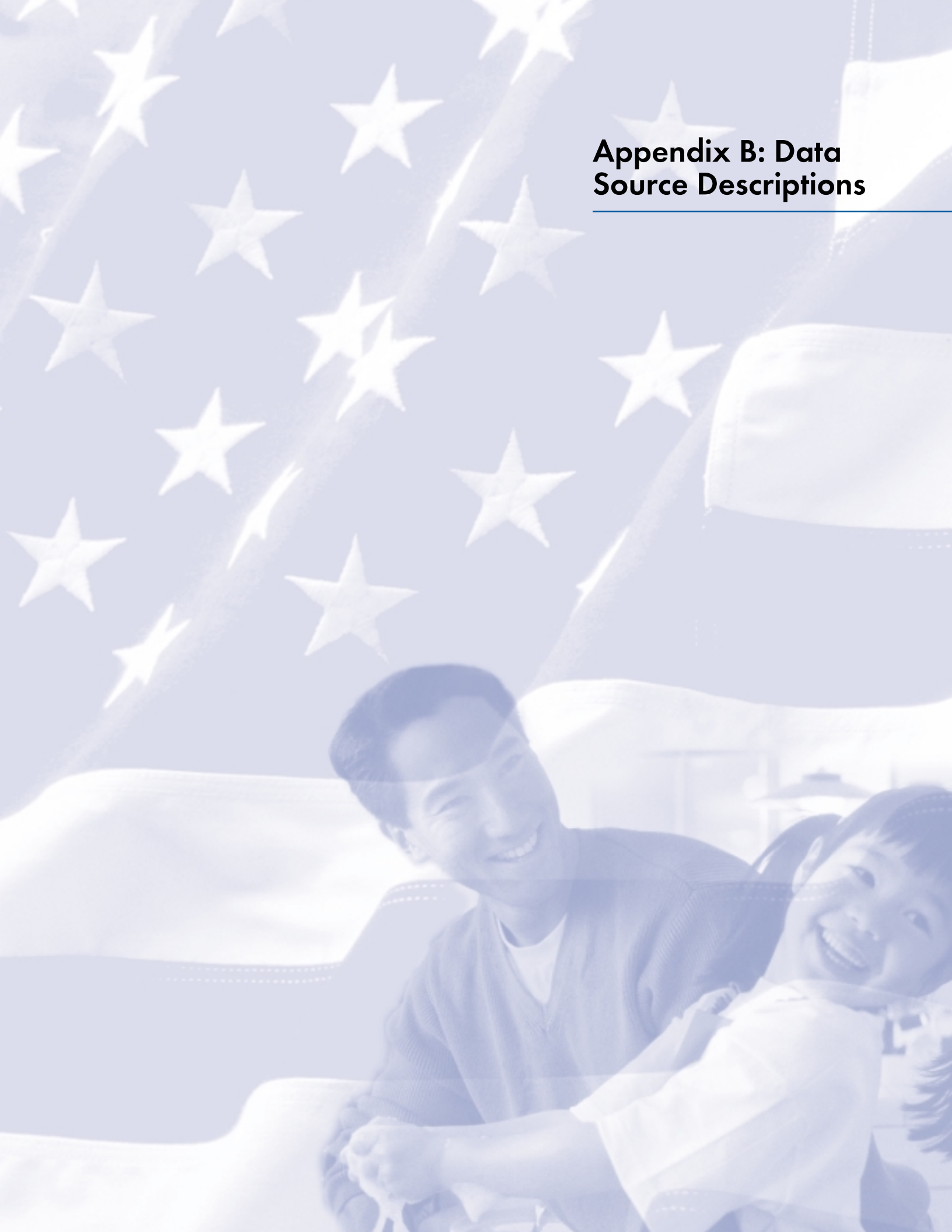
Appendix B: Data Source Descriptions



Data Source Descriptions

Data Source Descriptions

Aerometric Information Retrieval System

The Aerometric Information Retrieval System (AIRS) is a repository of information about airborne pollution in the United States and various World Health Organization (WHO) member countries. The system is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS), Information Transfer and Program Integration Division (ITPID), located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Data on criteria pollutants consist of air quality measurements collected by sensitive monitoring equipment at thousands of sites across the Nation operated by State and local environmental agencies. Each monitor measures the concentration of a particular pollutant in the air. Monitoring data indicate the average pollutant concentration during a time interval, usually 1 hour or 24 hours.

Information on the AIRS system is available online at http://www.epa.gov/airs.

Information about surveys on radon awareness and environmental tobacco smoke issues is available online at http://www.epa.gov/envirohealth/children.

Agency Contact:
Barbara Parzygnat
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Phone: (919) 541-5474

American Housing Survey

This survey provides data necessary for evaluating progress toward "a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family," affirmed in 1949 and 1968 legislation. The data come from a U.S. Census Bureau nationwide sample survey in odd-numbered years for national, regional, and metropolitan/non-metropolitan data and from surveys in 47 metropolitan statistical areas over a multi-year cycle. These data detail the types, size, conditions, characteristics, costs and values, equipment, utilities, and dynamics of the housing inventory; describe the demographic, financial, and mobility characteristics of the occupants; and give some information on neighborhood conditions. In 1997, the survey was conducted using computer-assisted personal interviewing for the first time, and questions on rental assistance and physical problems were also changed. Therefore, data from 1997, 1999, and 2001 on assisted families, priority problems, and severe physical problems are not comparable to earlier data.

Information about the American Housing Survey is available online at http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/ahs.html.

Agency Contact:
Kathy Nelson
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Phone: (202) 708-1520, x5917

Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals

The Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals (CSFII) is designed to measure what Americans eat and drink. Uses of the survey include monitoring the nutritional adequacy of American diets, measuring the impact of food fortification on nutrient intakes, developing dietary guidance and related programs, estimating exposure of population groups to food contaminants, evaluating the nutritional impact of food assistance programs, and assessing the need for agricultural products. Individuals were asked to provide 3 consecutive days of dietary data. The 1994-96 CSFII also included individuals living in households and oversampling of the low-income population. In each of the 3 survey years, respondents were asked to provide, through in-person interviews, food intake data on 2 nonconsecutive days, with both days of intake collected by the 24-hour recall method. The 1998 sample of children ages 2 to 9 was designed as a supplement to the 1994-1996 CSFII. Dietary recall methods were the same in both samples. Intake data were provided for 3,937 children under 18 years of age in 1989-91, and 4,011 children ages 2 to 9 in 1998.

For more information on the CSFII 1989-91, see Tippett, K.S., Mickle, S.J., Goldman, J.D., et al. (1995). *Food and nutrient intakes by individuals in the United States, 1 day, 1989-91* (NFS Rep. No. 91-2). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service.

For more information on the CSFII 1994-96, see Tippett, K.S. and Cypel, Y.S. (Eds.). (1998). *Design and operation: The Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals and the Diet and Health Knowledge Survey, 1994-96* (NFS Rep. No. 96-1). U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service.

Information about the CSFII is available online at http://www.barc.usda.gov/bhnrc/foodsurvey/home.htm.

Agency Contact:
Alanna Moshfegh
Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Phone: (301) 734-8457

For information on the Healthy Eating Index:
P. Peter Basiotis
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Phone: (703) 305-7600

Current Population Survey

Core survey and supplements. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a nationwide survey of about 60,000 households conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the U.S. Census Bureau. At present, there are 754 CPS sampling areas in the United States, with coverage in every State and the District of Columbia.

The CPS core survey is the primary source of information on the employment characteristics of the noninstitutionalized civilian population, ages 15 and older, including estimates of unemployment released every month by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In addition to the core survey, monthly CPS supplements provide additional demographic and social data. The March demographic supplement and the October school enrollment supplement provide information used to estimate the status and well-being of children. The March and October supplements have been administered every year since 1947. Every year, the October supplement to the CPS asks questions on school enrollment by grade and other school characteristics about each member of the household ages 3 and older. Data on the highest level of school completed or degree attained are derived from the March supplement to the CPS. The April food security supplement, introduced in 1995, is described in detail below.

In 1994, the CPS questionnaire was redesigned, and the computer-assisted personal interviewing method was implemented. In addition, the 1990 Census-based population controls, with adjustments for the estimated population undercount, were introduced. For more information regarding the CPS, its sampling structure, and estimation methodology, see U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. (1997). Explanatory notes and estimates of error. *Employment and Earnings, 44* (1), 225-242.

Effective with the release of July 2001 data, official labor force estimates from the CPS reflect the expansion of the monthly CPS sample from about 50,000 to about 60,000 eligible households. This expansion of the monthly CPS sample was one part of the Census Bureau's plan to meet the requirements of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) legislation. The SCHIP legislation requires the Census Bureau to improve state estimates of the number of children who live in low-income families and lack health insurance. These estimates are obtained from the Annual Demographic Supplement to the CPS. In September 2000, the Census Bureau began expanding the monthly CPS sample in 31 states and the District of Columbia. States were identified for sample supplementation based on the standard error of their March estimate of low-income children without health insurance. The additional 10,000 households were added to the sample over a 3-month period. A more comprehensive description of the CPS that incorporates the revisions and methodological changes introduced in 1994 and in July 2001 may be accessed at http://www.census.gov/prod/2002pubs/tp63rv.pdf.

Food security supplement. The food security supplement is a survey instrument developed through a long and rigorous process. The content of the supplement is based on material reported in prior research on hunger and food security. It was subjected to extensive testing by the U.S. Census Bureau. It reflects the consensus of nearly 100 experts at the 1994 Food Security and Measurement Conference convened jointly by the National Center for Health Statistics and the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The supplement was developed, tested, and refined further by the conferees, members of a Federal interagency working group, and survey methods specialists for the U.S. Census Bureau's Center for Survey Methods Research. The survey contains a systematic set of questions validated as measures of severity of food insecurity on both a 12-month and a 30-day basis. Data presented in this report are 12-month data from the CPS food security supplements. The respondents completing the supplement included households at all income levels, both above and below the Federal poverty threshold. Special final supplement sample weights were computed to adjust for the demographic characteristics of supplement non-interviews.

Economic Research Service, Food Security Briefing Room: http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity/

Information about the CPS is available online at http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm.

Agency Contacts:
For information on food security:
Dawn Aldridge
Food and Nutrition Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Phone: (703) 305-2132

For information on family structure:
Fertility and Family Statistics Branch
U.S. Census Bureau
Phone: (301) 763-2416

For information on secure parental employment, family income, and youth neither enrolled in school nor working:
David Johnson
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Phone: (202) 691-6580

For information on poverty, family income, and access to health care:
Poverty and Health Statistics Branch
U.S. Census Bureau
Phone: (301) 763-3215

For information on higher education:
Tom Snyder
National Center for Education Statistics
E-mail: Tom.Snyder@ed.gov

For information on difficulty speaking English:
Edie McArthur
National Center for Education Statistics
E-mail: Edith.McArthur@ed.gov

For information on high school completion:
Chris Chapman
National Center for Education Statistics
E-mail: Chris.Chapman@ed.gov

For information on early childhood education:
Jerry West
National Center for Education Statistics
E-mail: Jerry.West@ed.gov

Decennial Census Data

Every ten years, beginning with the first census in 1790, the United States government conducts a census, or count, of the entire population as mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The 1990 and 2000 censuses were taken April 1 of their respective years. As in several previous censuses, two forms were used—a short form and a long form. The short form was sent to every household, and the long form, containing the 100 percent questions, plus the sample questions, was sent to approximately one in every six households.

The Census 2000 short form questionnaire included seven questions for each household: name, sex, age, relationship, Hispanic origin, race, and whether the housing unit was owned or rented. The long form asked more detailed information on subjects such as education, employment, income, ancestry, homeowner costs, units in a structure, number of rooms, plumbing facilities, etc. Decennial censuses not only count the population but also sample the socio-economic status of the population, provide a tool for the government, educators, business owners, and others to get a snapshot of the state of the Nation. A more comprehensive description of Census 2000 is available at http://www.census.gov/mso/www/c2000basics.

The data contained in this special section are based on the sample of households who responded to the 1990 and 2000 Census long form questionnaires. Nationally, approximately one out of every six housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from the sampling procedures, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: (1) errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and (2) errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher income categories and overstated for the lower income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in *Summary File 3 Technical Documentation* in Chapter 8, "Accuracy of the Data," located at http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf.

All statements in this special Census section have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in tables, maps, and other figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, estimates in one category may not be significantly different from estimates assigned to a different category. Further information on the accuracy of the data is located at http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf.

Agency Contacts:
For information on the indicators:
Kristin Smith
U.S. Census Bureau
Phone: (301) 763-2416

For further information on the computation and use of standard errors:
Decennial Statistical Studies Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Phone: (301) 763-4242

High School and Beyond

The High School and Beyond (HS&B) longitudinal survey was first administered in 1980 to a stratified, nationally representative sample of approximately 30,000 high school sophomores and 28,000 high school seniors from more than 1,000 high schools. Follow-up surveys were administered in 1982, 1984, 1986, and 1992. In-school waves (1980 and 1982) entailed the administration of a student questionnaire and a cognitive test battery. In the Base Year (1980), data were also collected from students' parents and school principals, while the teachers of sampled students were asked to complete a checklist on students' behavior and performance in class. As part of the First Follow-up, high school transcripts were collected for a probability subsample of nearly 18,500 members of the 1980 sophomore cohort. The sample design for the transcript study increased the representation of racial/ethnic minorities, private school students, dropouts, transfer students, early graduates, and students whose parents had previously completed a parent questionnaire. The mode of data collection for the out-of-school waves of the study was self-administered mail-back questionnaires in 1984 and 1986 and Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) in 1992. In addition, a postsecondary school transcript study was conducted for First and Second Follow-up senior cohort respondents and Third and Fourth Follow-up sophomore cohort respondents who reported attending postsecondary institutions in those waves of the study.

In this report, the analysis sample for the indicators that used HS&B high school transcript data consisted of all 1982 high school graduates with complete transcripts. Of the 15,941 students on the transcript file, 11,195 students were high school graduates with complete transcripts.

Information on the HS&B First Follow-up and the high school transcript study can be found in Jones, C., et al. (1983). *High School and Beyond, 1980 Sophomore Cohort, First Follow-up (1982), Data file user's manual.* Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics. Jones, C., et al. (1983). *High School and Beyond Transcript Survey (1982), Data file user's manual.* Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.

Information about HS&B is available online at http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/hsb/.

Agency Contact:
Aurora D'Amico
National Center for Education Statistics
E-mail: Aurora.D'Amico@ed.gov

Monitoring the Future

The Monitoring the Future (MTF) Study is a continuing series of surveys intended to assess the changing lifestyles, values, and preferences of American youth. Each year since 1975, high school seniors from a representative sample of public and private high schools have participated in this study. The 2002 survey is the 12th to include comparable samples of 8th- and 10th-graders in addition to seniors. The study is conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research (ISR) under a grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The survey design consists of a multi-stage random sample where the stages include selection of geographic areas, selection of one or more schools in each selected area, and selection of a sample of students within each school. Data are collected in the spring of each year using questionnaires administered in the classroom by representatives from ISR. The 2002 survey included 13,544 high school seniors from 120 schools, 14,683 10th-graders from 133 schools, and 15,489 8th-graders from 141 schools (a total of 43,716 students from 394 schools).

Information about MTF is available online at http://www.nida.nih.gov/DrugPages/MTF.html and http://monitoringthefuture.org/

Agency Contact:
James Colliver
National Institute on Drug Abuse
Phone: (301) 402-1846

National Assessment of Educational Progress

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is mandated by Congress to monitor continuously the knowledge, skills, and performance of the Nation's children and youth. To measure long-term trends in educational performance, NAEP has periodically assessed students ages 9, 13, and 17 in reading, mathematics, and science since the early 1970s. To ensure accurate measurement of trends, items and procedures have remained the same in each assessment. A variation of matrix sampling is used so that the results from a large number of items can be generalized to an entire population. Nationally representative samples of approximately 15,000 students were assessed in each subject in 1999, the last year for which results were available as of this printing. An estimated 10 percent of the school population is classified as having a disability or limited English proficiency. Nearly half of these students have been included in assessments, although the percentages vary by grade and subject being assessed. In its short-term assessments described below, NAEP is starting to offer accommodations to disabled and limited English proficient students to remove barriers to their participation.

NAEP also conducts assessments in various academic subjects to measure short-term trends for periods of approximately 10 years. Data from many of these assessments are available for participating States as well as the Nation as a whole.

Students in public and nonpublic schools are sampled. A charter school could be sampled, since such schools are within the universe of public schools, but home-schoolers are not included.

Information about NAEP is available online at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard.

Agency Contact:
Arnold Goldstein
National Center for Education Statistics
E-mail: Arnold.Goldstein@ed.gov

National Assessment of Educational Progress High School Transcript Studies

Conducted in association with NAEP, the High School Transcript Study (HSTS) provides coursetaking and demographic information for a nationally representative, stratified sample of high school seniors. Sample sizes have ranged from approximately 21,000 to 25,000 students in approximately 300 schools. The HSTS provides the Department of Education and other education policymakers with information regarding current course offerings and coursetaking patterns in the Nation's secondary schools. In addition, it provides information on the relationship of student coursetaking patterns to achievement as measured by NAEP. Excluded students were those who did not graduate from high school, had not received a "regular" or "honors" diploma, or did not have complete transcript data. For all transcripts and samples, a course identification code number, based on the Classification of Secondary School Courses (CSSC), was assigned to each course taken by a student. Courses were further classified into subject (e.g., mathematics) and program (e.g., academic) areas using a 1998 revision of the CSSC (Bradby, D. and Hoachlander, E.G. (1999). *1998 Revision of the secondary school taxonomy.* Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics).

More information about the NAEP HSTS can be found in U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. *The 1998 High School Transcript Study Tabulation: Comparative Data on Credits Earned and Demographics for 1998, 1994, 1990, 1987, and 1982 High School Graduates,* (NCES 2001-498) by Stephen Roey, Nancy Caldwell, Keith Rust, Eyal Blumstein, Tom Krenzke, Stan Legum, Judy Kuhn, Mark Waksberg, and Jacqueline Haynes.

Information about the NAEP High School Transcript Study is available online at http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/hsts.asp.

Agency Contact:
Janis Brown
National Center for Education Statistics
E-mail: Janis.Brown@ed.gov

National Crime Victimization Survey

The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the Nation's primary source of information on criminal victimization. In earlier years, researchers obtained data from a nationally representative sample of roughly 49,000 households that include more than 100,000 persons ages 12 and older on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. In recent years, the sample size for the NCVS has been decreased. The sample for the most recent year, 2000, was 43,000 households and 80,000 persons ages 12 and older. The survey reports the likelihood of victimization by rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault, theft, household burglary, and motor vehicle theft for the population as a whole, as well as for segments of the population such as adolescents over age 11, women, the elderly, members of various racial groups, city dwellers, and other groups. Victims are also asked whether they reported the

incident to the police and, in the instances of personal violent crimes, they are asked about the characteristics of the perpetrator. The NCVS provides the largest national forum for victims to describe the impact of crime and the characteristics of violent offenders. It has been ongoing since 1973 and was redesigned in 1992.

Information about the NCVS is available online at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/cvict.htm#Programs.

Agency Contact:
Michael Rand
Bureau of Justice Statistics
Phone: (202) 616-3494

National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988

The National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 (NELS:88) is a longitudinal study of the 8th-grade class of 1988 sponsored by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The Base Year survey was administered to about 24,000 8th-graders in more than 1,000 schools with an 8th-grade class. The First, Second, Third, and Fourth Follow-up surveys revisited the same sample of students in 1990, 1992, 1994, and 2000 when most of the 1988 8th-graders were in 10th-grade, in 12th-grade, and then 2 and 6 years out of high school. For each in-school follow-up, the student sample was "freshened" to obtain a representative cross-sectional sample of 10th-graders (in 1990) and 12th-graders (in 1992). In-school waves entailed the administration of a student questionnaire and a battery of cognitive tests in the subject areas of mathematics, English, science, and social studies/history. Students' teachers, principals, and parents were also surveyed. In addition, as part of the Second Follow-up, high school transcripts were collected for (1) all students attending a subset of Second Follow-up schools selected for the transcript study; (2) all dropouts and dropouts attending alternative programs who had attended high school for a minimum of one term; (3) all early graduates; and (4) sample members with disabilities that prevented them from completing a questionnaire and cognitive test battery in the Base Year, First Follow-up, and Second Follow-up. Transcripts were coded using the Classification of Secondary School Courses as updated for the 1990 National Assessment of Educational Progress, High School Transcript Study. Students were subsequently surveyed in the Third and Fourth Follow ups through Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI).

In this report the analysis sample for indicators that used NELS:88 transcript data consisted of all 1992 high school graduates with complete transcripts. Of the 17,285 students on the transcript file, 13,506 students were high school graduates with complete transcripts.

Information on the NELS:88 Second Follow-up Survey and the Transcript Study can be found in Ingels, S.J., Dowd, K.L., Baldridge, J.D., Stripe, J.L., Bartot, V.H., and Frankel, M.R. (1994). *National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 Second Follow-Up: Student component data file user's manual* (NCES 94-374). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics.

Ingels, S.J., Dowd, K.L., Taylor, J.T., Bartot, V.H., Frankel, M.R., and Pulliam, P.A.(1995). *National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988 Second Follow-Up: Transcript Component Data File User's Manual.* Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES 95-377).

Information about NELS 88 is available online at http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/nels88/.

Agency Contact:
Jeffrey Owings
National Center for Education Statistics
E-mail: Jeffrey.Owings@ed.gov

National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) is conducted by the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survey is designed to assess the health and nutritional status of the non-institutionalized civilian population through direct physical examinations and interviews, using a complex stratified, multi-stage, probability sampling design. Interviewers obtain information on personal and demographic characteristics, including age, household income, and race and ethnicity by self-reporting or as reported by an informant. The first survey, NHANES I, was conducted during the period 1971-1974; NHANES II covered the period 1976-1980; and NHANES III covered the period 1988-1994. Only NHANES III (in its first phase, conducted 1988-91), however, collected data on serum cotinine levels. NHANES III provided cotinine data for children ages 4-17. Descriptions of the survey design, the methods used in estimation, and the general qualifications of the data are presented in the following:

- Plan and Operation of the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 1988-94: Series 1: Programs and Collection Procedures, No. 32. *Vital and Health Statistics*, Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Starting in 1999, NHANES changed to a continuous survey visiting 15 U.S. locations per year and surveying and reporting for approximately 5,000 people annually. However, two or more years of data are necessary for adequate sample sizes for sub-group analyses.

NHANES Data Used to Calculate the Healthy Eating Index. The Federal Government's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) provides information on people's consumption of foods and nutrients, as well as extensive health-related data, and information about Americans' demographic and socioeconomic characteristics. NHANES data for 1999-2000—the most recent data available—were used to compute the HEI. Previous HEI reports were based on data from the Federal Government's Continuing Survey of Food Intakes by Individuals (CSFII).

NHANES 1999-2000 is a complex, multistage probability sample of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States. Individuals of all ages were sampled. The NHANES 1999-2000 sample includes expanded samples of Mexican Americans, African Americans, adolescents 12 to 19 years, and adults 60 years and older. In 2000, the sample individual selection probabilities were modified to increase the number of sampled persons in low-income, non-Hispanic White population domains. Additionally, screening and sampling rates were adjusted for women of childbearing age to increase the number of pregnant women included in the sample. Statistical weights were used to make the sample representative of the U.S. population. For more information on the NHANES data, see http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhanes/guidelines1.pdf.

The HEI was computed for all individuals 2 years and older, because dietary guidelines are applicable to people of these ages only. Pregnant women were excluded from this analysis because of their special dietary needs. The final analytical sample size was 8,070 people.

Information about NHANES is available online at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhanes.htm.

Agency Contacts:
For information on overweight:
Cynthia Ogden
National Center for Health Statistics
Phone: (301) 458-4405

For information on the Healthy Eating Index:
Peter Basiotis
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
United States Department of Agriculture
Phone: (703) 305-7600

National Health Interview Survey

The National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) is a continuing nationwide sample survey of the noninstitutionalized civilian population in which data are collected during personal household interviews. Interviewers obtain information on personal and demographic characteristics, including race and ethnicity, by self-reporting or as reported by a member of the household. Investigators also collect data about illnesses, injuries, impairments, chronic conditions, activity limitation caused by chronic conditions, utilization of health services, and other health topics. Each year the survey is reviewed and special topics are added or deleted. For most health topics, the survey collects data over an entire year.

The NHIS sample includes an oversample of Black and Hispanic persons and is designed to allow the development of national estimates of health conditions, health service utilization, and health problems of the noninstitutionalized civilian population of the United States. The response rate for the ongoing part of the survey has been between 94 and 98 percent over the years. In 1997, the NHIS was redesigned; estimates beginning in 1997 are likely to vary slightly from those for previous years. Interviewers collected information for the basic questionnaire on 100,618 persons in 2000, including 28,495 children.

Descriptions of the survey design, the methods used in estimation, and the general qualifications of the data are presented in:

Massey, J.T., Moore, T.F., Parsons, V.L., and Tadros, W. (1989). Design and estimation for the National Health Interview Survey, 1985-1994. *Vital and Health Statistics, 2* (110). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Botman, S.L., Moore, T.F., Moriarity, C.L., and Parsons, V.L. (2000). Design and estimation for the National Health Interview Survey, 1995-2004. *Vital and Health Statistics, 2* (130). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Additional background and health data for children are available in Blackwell, D and Tonthat, L. (2002). Summary statistics for U.S. children: National Health Interview Survey, 1998. *Vital and Health Statistics, 10* (208). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Information about the NHIS is available online at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm.

Agency Contacts:
For information on activity limitations and general health status:
John Kiely
National Center for Health Statistics
Phone: (301) 458-4432

For information on usual source of health care:
Robin Cohen
National Center for Health Statistics
Phone: (301) 458-4152

National Household Education Survey

The National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), collects detailed information about education issues through a household-based survey using telephone interviews. The sample for the NHES is drawn from the noninstitutionalized civilian population in households having a telephone in the 50 States and the District of Columbia. In each survey, between 44,000 and 60,000 households are screened to identify persons eligible for one of the topics. Generally, each collection covers two topical surveys, and researchers conduct between 2,500 and 25,000 interviews for each survey. The data are weighted to permit nationally representative estimates of the population of interest. In addition, the NHES design samples minorities at a higher rate than nonminorities to increase the reliability of estimates for these groups.

The 1991 NHES included a survey on early childhood program participation. Investigators screened approximately 60,000 households to identify a sample of about 14,000 children, ages 3 to 8. They interviewed parents in order to collect information about these children's educational activities and the role of the family in the children's learning. In 1993, NCES fielded a school readiness survey in which parents of approximately 11,000 children age 3 through second grade were asked about their children's experiences in early childhood programs, developmental level, school adjustment and related problems, early primary school experiences, general health and nutrition status, home activities, and family characteristics, including family stability and economic risk factors. In 1995, NCES also fielded an early childhood program participation survey, similar to that of 1991. It entailed screening approximately 44,000 households and interviewing 14,000 parents of children from birth through third grade. In 1996, NCES fielded a survey of parent and family involvement in education, interviewing nearly 21,000 parents of children from age 3 through 12th grade. About 8,000 youth in grades 6 through 12 were also interviewed about their community service and civic involvement. The 1999 NHES was designed to collect end-of-the-decade estimates of key indicators collected in previous NHES surveys and also collected data from children and their parents about plans for the child's education after high school. Interviews were conducted with 24,000 parents of children ranging from newborns through 12th-graders, approximately 8,000 students in grades 6 through 12 in the youth interview, and nearly 7,000 adults.

Three surveys were fielded as part of the 2001 NHES. The Early Childhood Program Participation survey was similar in content to the 1995 collection and collected data about the education of 7,000 prekindergarten children ranging in age from birth to 6. The Before- and After-School Programs and Activities survey collected data about nonparental care arrangements and educational and noneducational activities in which children participate before- and after-school. Data were collected for approximately 10,000 kindergarten through 8th graders. The third survey fielded in 2001 was the Adult Education and Lifelong Learning survey, which gathered data about the formal and informal educational activities of 11,000 adults.

Information about the NHES is available online at http://nces.ed.gov/nhes.

Agency Contact:
Chris Chapman
National Center for Education Statistics
Phone: (202) 502-7414
E-mail: Chris.Chapman@ed.gov

National Immunization Survey

The National Immunization Survey (NIS) is a continuing nationwide telephone sample survey of families with children ages 19 to 35 months. Estimates of vaccine-specific coverage are available for the Nation, the States, and 28 urban areas.

The NIS uses a two-stage sample design. First, a random-digit-dialing sample of telephone numbers is drawn. When households with age-eligible children (19-35 months) are contacted, the interviewer collects information on the vaccinations received by all age-eligible children. The interviewer also collects information on the vaccination providers. In the second phase, all vaccination providers are contacted

by mail. Providers' responses are combined with information obtained from the households to render estimates of vaccination coverage levels more accurately. Final estimates are adjusted for noncoverage of households without telephones.

Information about the NIS is available online at http://www.nisabt.org and on the NIS website at http://www.cdc.gov/NIP/coverage.

Agency Contact:
Lawrence Barker
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Phone: (404) 639-8560

National Linked File of Live Births and Infant Deaths

The National Linked File of Live Births and Infant Deaths is a data file for research on infant mortality. Beginning with the 1995 data, this file is produced in two formats. The file is released first as a period data file and later as a cohort file. In the birth cohort format, it includes linked vital records for infants born in a given year who died in that calendar year or the next year, before their first birthday. In the period format, the numerator consists of all infant deaths occurring in one year, with deaths linked to the corresponding birth certificates from that year or the previous year. The linked file includes all the variables on the national natality file, as well as medical information reported for the same infant on the death record and the age of the infant at death. The use of linked files prevents discrepancies in the reporting of race between the birth and infant death certificates. Although discrepancies are rare for White and Black infants, they can be substantial for other races. National linked files are available starting with the birth cohort of 1983. No linked file was produced for the 1992 through 1994 data years. Match completeness for each of the birth cohort files is about 98 percent.

For more information, see:

Prager, K. (1994). Infant mortality by birthweight and other characteristics: United States, 1985 birth cohort. *Vital and Health Statistics, 20* (24). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Mathews, T.J., Menacker F., and MacDorman, M.F. (2002). Infant mortality statistics from the 2000 period linked birth/infant death data set. *National Vital Statistics Report, 50* (12). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Information about the National Linked File of Live Births and Infant Deaths is available online at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/linked.htm.

Agency Contact:
For information on infant mortality:
Marian MacDorman
National Center for Health Statistics
Phone: (301) 458-4356

National Vital Statistics System

Through the National Vital Statistics System, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) collects and publishes data on births and deaths in the United States. NCHS obtains information on births and deaths from the registration offices of all States, New York City, and the District of Columbia.

Demographic information on birth certificates, such as race and ethnicity, is provided by the mother at the time of birth. Hospital records provide the base for information on birthweight, while funeral directors and family members provide demographic information on death certificates. Medical certification of cause of death is provided by a physician, medical examiner, or coroner.

Information on Hispanic origin. The number of States gathering information on births to parents of Hispanic origin has increased gradually since 1980-81, when 22 States included this information on birth certificates. By 1993, the Hispanic origin of the mother was reported on birth certificates in all 50 States and the District of Columbia. Similarly, mortality data by Hispanic origin of decedent have become more complete over time. In 1997, Hispanic origin was reported on death certificates in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Population denominators. The natality and mortality rates shown in this report for 1991-2000 have been revised, based on populations consistent with the census conducted on April 1, 2000. Rates previously published in *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being* were based on populations projected from the 1990 census. The population estimates for 2000 and 2001 can be found on the Internet at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm. It was necessary to create population estimates for 2000 and 2001 that were consistent with the race categories used in the 1990 Census. The revised intercensal population estimates for 5-year age groups for 1991-99 can also be found on the Internet at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm. The estimates for females 15-19 years were adjusted to obtain population denominators for birth rates for teenagers 15-17 years (Health9) and birth rates for unmarried teenagers (Pop7.A).

Detailed information on the methodologies used to develop the revised populations, including the populations for birth rates for teenagers and birth rates for unmarried teenagers, is presented in several publications.

For more information about these methodologies, see:

Ventura, S.J., Hamilton, B.E., Sutton, P.D. (2003). Revised birth and fertility rates for the United States, 2000 and 2001. *National Vital Statistics Reports, 51* (4). Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Hamilton, B.E., Sutton, P.D., and Ventura, S.J. (2003). Revised birth and fertility rates for the 1990s: United States, and new rates for Hispanic populations, 2000 and 2001. *National Vital Statistics Reports, 51.* (In preparation.) Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

National Center for Health Statistics. (2002). Unpublished estimates of the April 1, 2000, United States population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, prepared under a collaborative arrangement with the U.S. Census Bureau. 2002. Available on the Internet at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm

Ingram, D.D., Weed, J.A., Parker, J.D., Hamilton, B.E., Schenker, N., Arias, E, Madans, J. (2003, forthcoming) U.S. Census 2000 Population with Bridged Race Categories. Vital Health Stat 2.

Anderson, R.N., Arias, E. (2003). The Effect of Revised Populations on Mortality Statistics for the United States, 2000. *National Vital Statistics Reports, 51* (In preparation) Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics.

Preliminary data. NCHS continuously receives statistical records from the States' vital registration systems, providing preliminary data. Investigators weight individual records of births and deaths to independent counts of vital events registered in each State and reported to NCHS. These independent counts, aggregated for a 12-month period, serve as control totals and are the basis for the individual unit record weights in the preliminary file. For selected variables, unknown or not-stated values are imputed. The percentage not stated is generally 1 percent or less.

For more information on national natality and mortality data, see:

National Center for Health Statistics. (2003). *Vital Statistics of the United States, 2001, I Natality.* Technical Appendix, and *II (Mortality), Part A* (1996) (DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 96-1101). Washington, DC: Public Health Service.

Information about the National Vital Statistics System is available online at http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss.htm.

Agency Contacts:
For information on births to unmarried women, low birthweight, and adolescent births:
Stephanie Ventura
National Center for Health Statistics
Phone: (301) 458-4547

For information on child and infant mortality:
Donna Hoyert
National Center for Health Statistics
Phone: (301) 458-4279

For more information on adolescent mortality:
Lois Fingerhut
National Center for Health Statistics
Phone: (301) 458-4213

Population Estimates

Decennial Census data serve as benchmarks for deriving national population estimates, which are also based on data from the following agencies: births and deaths (National Center for Health Statistics); immigrants (Immigration and Naturalization Service); Armed Forces (U.S. Department of Defense); net movement between Puerto Rico and the U.S. mainland (Puerto Rico Planning Board); and federal employees abroad (Office of Personnel Management and U.S. Department of Defense). Similar data serve as the basis for State estimates, which are also derived from a variety of data series, including school statistics from State departments of education and parochial school systems.

Customarily, after the decennial population census, intercensal population estimates for the preceding decade are prepared to replace postcensal estimates for that decade.

For more information, see U.S. Bureau of the Census. (1998). U.S. population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin: 1980-1997. *Current Population Reports* (PPL-91R),Washington, DC.

Information about population estimates is available online at http://eire.census.gov/popest/estimates.php.

Agency Contact:
Kirsten West
U.S. Census Bureau
Phone: (301) 763-2110

Population Projections

The population projections for the U.S. is provisional and takes into consideration the results of the 2000 Census. It is based on the 2000 Census, official post-census estimates, as well as vital registration data from the National Center for Health Statistics. The assumptions are based on those used in 2000 with some adjustments for consistency with new information. These projections have not been calculated for race or Hispanic origin. Projections in the Racial and Ethnic Composition table are based on the most recent population estimates from the 1990 Census.

Low, middle, and high growth assumptions are made about fertility, mortality, and international migration. The current middle series assumptions are that:

- Fertility will see little change over time, with levels for each racial/ethnic group converging to about 2.1 children per woman in the long run.
- Mortality will continue to improve, with life expectancy for each racial/ethnic group converging to about 90 years by 2100.
- Net international migration will fluctuate, with levels in 2100 becoming lower than those in 1999. In the long run, levels of in-migration for Hispanic and White populations will decrease, while Asian and African in-migration will increase.

For more information, see U.S. Bureau of the Census. (1996). *Population projections of the United States by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin* (1130, Series P25). Washington DC: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Information about population the most current projections is available online at http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/natproj.html.

Agency Contact:
Greg Spencer
U.S. Census Bureau
Phone: (301) 763-2332

Survey of Income and Program Participation

Core survey and topical modules. Implemented by the U.S. Census Bureau since 1984, the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) is a continuous series of national longitudinal panels, with a sample size ranging from approximately 14,000 to 36,700 interviewed households. The duration of each panel ranges from 2½ years to 4 years, with household interviews every 4 months.

The SIPP collects detailed information on income, labor force participation, participation in government assistance programs, and general demographic characteristics to measure the effectiveness of existing government programs, to estimate future costs and coverage of government programs, and to provide statistics on the distribution of income in America. In addition, topical modules provide detailed information on a variety of subjects, including health insurance, child care, adult and child well-being, marital and fertility history, and education and training. The U.S. Census Bureau releases cross-sectional, topical modules and longitudinal reports and data files. In 1996, the SIPP questionnaire was redesigned to include a new 4-year panel sample design and the computer-assisted personal interviewing method.

Information about the SIPP is available online at http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp.

Agency Contact:
Judy Eargle
U.S. Census Bureau
Phone: (301) 763-3819

Surveys on Radon Awareness and Environmental Tobacco Smoke Issues

In 1994 and 1996, EPA's Indoor Environments Division commissioned a commercial contractor, Survey Communications, Inc., to conduct surveys on radon awareness and environmental tobacco smoke issues. Approximately 31,000 households in the 50 States were contacted in 1994 and 1996. All interviews were conducted by telephone using a random digit dialing sampling methodology. Both the 1994 and the 1996 surveys asked whether the household included any children under the age of 7. In addition, they asked the following:

- Does anyone in your household smoke cigarettes, cigars, or a pipe?
- Do you allow anyone to smoke in your home on a regular basis?

In the 1994 survey, 6,411 households had children under age 7. In the 1996 survey, 6,851 households had children under the age of 7. The percentages of homes with children under age 7 in which someone smokes, or in which someone smokes regularly, were obtained by crossing the question on children with the appropriate question on smoking in the household.

In 1999, EPA commissioned the Center for Survey Research and Analysis at the University of Connecticut to conduct a similar but much smaller survey. The results of this survey were based on 1,005 telephone interviews with respondents located in the contiguous 48 states, using a random digit dialing sampling methodology. The survey questions regarding smoking in the home were similar to the questions in the 1994 and 1996 surveys. In the 1999 survey there were 225 households with children 6 years of age or younger.

Although the 1999 survey was substantially smaller than the 1994 and 1996 surveys, all three surveys were designed to produce nationally representative samples.

Agency Contact:
Philip Jalbert
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
Office of Air and Radiation
(202) 564-9431
E-mail: jalbert.philip@epa.gov

Uniform Crime Reports

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Program, which began in 1929, collects information on the following crimes reported to law enforcement authorities: homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Arrests are reported for 21 additional crime categories.

The UCR data are compiled from monthly law enforcement reports or individual crime incident records transmitted directly to the FBI or to centralized State agencies that then report to the FBI. In 1997, law enforcement agencies active in the UCR Program represented approximately 254 million U.S. inhabitants—94 percent of the total population. The UCR Program provides crime counts for the Nation as a whole, as well as for regions, States, counties, cities, and towns. This permits studies among neighboring jurisdictions and among those with similar populations and other common characteristics.

UCR findings for each calendar year are published in a preliminary release in the spring, followed by a detailed annual report, *Crime in the United States,* issued in the following calendar year. In addition to crime counts and trends, this report includes data on crimes cleared, persons arrested (age, gender, and race), law enforcement personnel (including the number of sworn officers killed or assaulted), and the characteristics of homicides (including age, gender, and race of victims and offenders, victim-offender relationships, weapons used, and circumstances surrounding the homicides). Other special reports are also available from the UCR Program.

Information about the UCR is available online at http://www.fbi.gov.

Agency Contact:
Uniform Crime Reports
Programs Support Section
Criminal Justice Information Services Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
1000 Custer Hollow Road
Clarksburg, West Virginia 26306